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Letter No. 2231

CURRENT RECORDS

September 26, 1985

**U.S. AG. EXPORT
VALUE TO FALL**

In fiscal 1985, U.S. agricultural export value is expected to fall to \$32 billion, 16 pct. below fiscal 1984, while volume is forecast to 129 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. exports to major markets such as Western Europe, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong are down from last year. A further deterioration in the U.S. ag. export picture is expected in 1986. World stocks of grain and oilseeds are expanding, pressuring prices downward. Improved grain crops will reduce USSR's import requirements in fiscal 1986. (For more information, call Cecil Davison at 202-786-1687.)

**CORN SALES
TO USSR**

Private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Sept. 24 the export sales of 200,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to the USSR during the 1985-86 marketing year and under the third year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement. The marketing year for corn begins Oct. 1. With this sale, corn to the USSR for delivery during the third year of the agreement totals 1,800,000 tons. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the second year of the agreement, which ends Sept. 30, 1985, now total 18,637,300 tons, of which wheat is 2,887,200 tons and corn is 15,750,100 tons.

**OILSEED PROD.
UP IN VENEZUELA**

The total oilseed production in Venezuela for 1985 is expected to rise to 158,000 tons, up from 128,000 tons in 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Venezuela is a large importer of U.S. soybean meal, soybean oil, sunflowerseed oil and cottonseed oil. Soybean meal imports in 1985 are forecast to drop to 610,000 tons from 660,000 tons last year. Total soybean, cottonseed and sunflowerseed oil imports are forecast to drop to 218,000 tons from 260,000 tons.

**FARROWING
INTENTIONS**

Hog producers in the 10 Quarterly States intended to farrow 2.27 millions sows during Sept.-Nov. of this year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is 2 pct. fewer than during the comparable period in 1984, and 5 pct. below the 1983 period. Farrowing intentions for Dec. 1985-Feb. 1986 quarter are 1.93 million head, fractionally below a year earlier and 2 pct. below the comparable period two years earlier. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-6880.)

**YEARBOOK ON
WORLDWIDE
TRADE**

The 1985 Yearbook of Agriculture is due off the press in mid-December. Titled "U.S. Agriculture in a Global Economy", it covers international trade barriers, domestic farm policies, macroeconomics, interdependence, food aid, trade relationships, commodity production, technology. It even presents controversy among the authors concerning the future of agriculture.

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DIETARY GUIDELINES

On Sept. 24, Sec'y of Agriculture John Block released the second edition of "Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans." A committee of nine nutrition scientists advised the government's food and health agencies on how to revise the guidelines. The guidelines are: Eat a variety of foods; Maintain desirable weight; Avoid too much fat, saturated fat and cholesterol; Eat foods adequate in starch and fiber; Avoid too much sugar; Avoid too much sodium; If you drink alcoholic beverages, do so in moderation.

DAIRY PRICES

The prices received by farmers for all-milk during Aug. averaged \$12.10 per hundredweight, which is \$1.10 below a year earlier. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, prices are expected to fall further below a year earlier because of surplus supplies and the lower support price. For all of 1985, the all-milk price may average 60 to 80 cents lower than 1984's \$13.45 per hundredweight. Indications are the effective price for 1985 would be 25 to 45 cents lower than last year, which saw a 20-cent drop from 1983. In 1986, the all-milk price may be unchanged to 60 cents lower than in 1985. (For more information, call Cliff Carman at 202-486-1830.)

CROPLAND USE

Cropland used for crops--cropland harvested, cropland on which crops failed, and cultivated summer fallow--is expected to total 374 million acres in 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is essentially unchanged from the 373 million in 1984, but 41 million above the 1983 level when about 78 million acres were idled under the PIK and other production adjustment programs. (For more information, call Roger Hexem at 202-786-1419.)

WORLD ECONOMY & U.S. EXPORTS

A slower U.S. economic and import expansion is a major reason world growth will be held to about 2.9 pct. this year, down from 4 in 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although declines in the value of the dollar should make U.S. exports relatively less costly, good crops abroad, foreign economic growth below the 1970's, and price undercutting by U.S. export competitors will continue to curb U.S. export value and volume in fiscal 1986. (For more information, call Cecil Davison, 202-786-1687.)

GOV'T DAIRY PURCHASES

U.S. Department of Agriculture purchases under the dairy price support are sharply larger than a year ago. The reason is that milk production and marketings increased much more than the commercial disappearance of milk and dairy products. During Jan.-Aug., USDA net removals were equal to about 10.3 billion pounds of milk, up 2.2 billion or 28 pct. from the same period in 1984. Removals in 1986 are projected to be 10 to 11 billion pounds, assuming no diversion program and the support price is \$11.60 per hundredweight. For more information, call Cliff Carman at 202-786-1830.

HOGS & PIGS INVENTORY

The inventory of all hogs and pigs on Sept. 1 in the 10 States conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 41.8 million head, 3 pct. below last year and 9 pct. below Sept. 1, 1983, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The breeding inventory is 5.38 million head, 3 pct. less than a year ago, and 8 pct. below 2 years earlier. The market hog inventory is 36.4 million head, 3 pct. below Sept. 1 last year and 9 pct. less than Sept. 1, 1983. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-6880.)

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

U.S. AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...USDA economist Herb Moses takes a look at the current situation for some major sectors of agriculture, including wheat, feed grains, commercial beef production and the status of U.S. farm exports this year. Vic Powell interviews. (476)

WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...World economic growth is expected to total 2.9 percent this year, down from four percent in 1984. USDA economist Cecil Davison examines the status of agriculture around the world and what it means for U.S. farmers. Vic Powell interviews. (477)

NEW DIETARY GUIDELINES...Sec'y of Agriculture John Block focuses on the new edition of "Nutrition and Your Health, Dietary Guidelines for Americans", and how this publication will be used in programs of the Department of Agriculture. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (478)

U.S. TOBACCO OUTLOOK...USDA economist Verner Grise comments on the U.S. tobacco harvest expected this year and how it compares with last year. Vic Powell interviews. (479)

AFRICANIZED BEE TEST...USDA entomologist Dr. Suzanne Batra describes how this new test can be used by scientists and beekeepers to distinguish the Africanized bee from the domestic honey bee. Vic Powell interviews. (480)

CATTLE ON
FEED

Cattle and calves on feed Sept. 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.14 million head, down 9 pct. from a year ago and 8 pct. below Sept. 1, 1983, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Marketings of fed cattle during Aug. totaled 1.7 million, 1 pct. above last year and 3 pct. more than Aug. two years ago. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during Aug. totaled 1.5 million, down 11 pct. from last year and 5 pct. below Aug. 1983. Net placements of 1.44 million for Aug. are 11 pct. below last year and down 4 pct. from two years ago. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-6880.)

FARM PRODUCTION
EXPENSES - 1984

Farm production expenses increased 9 pct. to \$139.5 billion in 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Spending on fertilizer, pesticides, and rent increased, while fuel costs declined. Total farm assets, including farm households, fell 9 pct. to \$955.6 billion, and real estate values dropped by \$34 billion to \$764 billion. Total farm assets, excluding farm households, dropped from \$957 billion to \$852 billion.

NET CASH
INCOME, 1984

The net cash income for 1984 from farming increased by \$900 million to \$39.2 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Net cash income is the difference between cash income, including sales from previous years' inventories, and cash expenses. Net cash income has remained fairly stable since 1979, maintaining a narrow range, \$35-\$40 billion, despite considerable fluctuation in crop production. Federal cash payments, another component of cash income, dropped 9 pct. to \$8.4 billion. (For more information, call Sandra Suddendorf, 202-786-1804.)

OFF MIKE

John Philpot (Arkansas Radio Net, Little Rock) says he's going to "...hang up my farm broadcasting spurs." He reports he'll be vacating his Farm Director position at the network on October 31. Stewart Doan, now Associate Farm Director, will move into the head position. Consequently, Stewart will be looking for his own replacement. If you're interested, call him at 501-661-7550. As for what John plans to do, here's what he says, "...as little as possible...at least for awhile." But, knowing John, that "...for awhile..." will be short indeed ... Lee Mielke (KYLN, Lynden, WA) stopped by for a chat in between interviews on the Hill and listening in on dairy legislation discussions ... Bob Huff has left KXLY, Spokane, WA, but Wey Simpson who moved over from KHQ, Spokane, is still there ... Rick Halmes is no longer at KMON/KFBB-TV, Great Falls, MT. Change in programming concepts brought about the change, Rick reports. He's involved in computer software in a farm and ranch marketing service at present but loves farm broadcasting and is willing to relocate anywhere to get back into it. Contact him at 406-727-8950 ... Interesting conversation with Gary Wulf (KZEN/Central City, NE)...kinda like talking to a Chamber of Commerce person. He said crops in his area were looking good. Actually what he said was, "The corn looks like palm trees, the soybeans are armpit high, and we just dropped a milo seed here and there and seven stalks came up, each with seven heads." Sure, Gary, sure ... A little catching up is appropriate right about here. We got a letter from Ned Browning back in July in which he reported he's back at Auburn University working in Extension Service radio after a two-year study leave at University of Tennessee doing work on a PhD degree. His co-workers, Jack Smith and Ken Copeland held down the fort while he was gone. And there's a new television specialist on staff, too. He's Jim Langcuster.


FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1478...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) They are now available and they are even receiving the endorsement of the American Meat Institute and the National Cattlemen's Association. The new 1985 Government Dietary Guidelines have just been released and Brenda Curtis has the story on what they say and what they mean to consumers.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1467...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Selling U.S. peanuts overseas; A world full of rice; A super chicken; No-rain research.

CONSUMER TIME #960...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) Child molestation cases are up; Riding the western trail; Eat more, gain less?; An old age crisis; The new Dietary Guidelines.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Fri, Oct. 4, Livestock and poultry outlook; Tues, Oct. 8, Crop and weather; Thurs, Oct. 10, U.S. crop production, World ag. supply and demand, Soviet grain outlook; Fri, Oct. 11, World crop/grain situation, World cotton situation; World oilseed situation.


JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio-Television Division